

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application. Claims 25-31 and 40-52 are pending. No claims have been amended, cancelled, or added.

Therefore, claims 25-31 and 40-52 are now presented for examination.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected claims 25-31 and 40-52 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the Applicant regards as the invention.

With regard to the rejections:

Claim 25 – The rejection to Claim 25 is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner indicates that is not clear what “the memory” refers to. The preamble of the claim claims “a memory” in an integrated circuit to conserve power. It is submitted that the antecedent basis for “the memory” is clearly established, and no amendment to the claim is required. It would be possible to repeat the phrase contained in the preamble, referring to “the memory in the integrated circuit to conserve power”, but this would be superfluous and would not add any clarity of the claim. It is submitted that the current form of the claim is correct.

The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 25, the Examiner having found a lack of clarity regarding “what the multiplexor output is coupled to and from where [the] multiplexor control signal is received”. It is submitted that the interrelationships of the claim elements presented in claim 25 are clear and meet the requirements of law. There is no legal requirement to provide a reference to every external connection or potential connection to a claimed apparatus. In fact, this is not

practically possible in most cases. In this particular case, the claim indicates that the output multiplexer is to output data from a memory block “out of the memory cluster”. It is submitted that the meaning of the claim is clear, and there is no legal requirement for identifying the recipient of such output data. It would be impossible to guess who the recipient of data would be in every possible embodiment or implementation.

With regard to “from where a multiplexer control signal is received”, it is initially noted that “a multiplexer control signal” is not even an element of the claim. It is submitted that it is not appropriate to infer a non-essential element that is not present, particularly an element such as a control signal. Almost any electronic element may include a control signal of some kind, at least in the sense of an enable signal. Under the Examiner’s reasoning, it would appear necessary to identify the source of any such control signal. This is not legally required or possible practically. Even if this was an element of claim, it would not be required to identify the source of the control signal, and in fact this would appear to be impossible because it would vary based on the individual embodiment or implementation.

It is thus submitted that claim 25 is appropriate in its current form.

Claim 40 – The rejection of claim 40 is respectfully traversed for the same reasons as the traverse of claim 25 with regard to the source of a multiplexer control signal. As with claim 25, this is not an element of the claim.

Claim 46 – The Examiner rejects the claims because “the configuration of the data input buses and memory clusters is not clear”. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Further, it is submitted that it is not possible to fully respond to the rejection because the meaning of the rejection is not understood. It is not clear what the Examiner

means by “the configuration” of the data input buses and memory clusters. This is not an element of the claim, and “configuration” is apparently not being used in the usual sense in computer systems. The Applicant respectfully requests clarification of this rejection.

The claim indicates that there is “a plurality of data input buses coupled between the memory controller and the memory array”, and further indicates that the memory array is “organized into one or more memory clusters”. The input buses are clearly imposed between the memory controller and the memory clusters, as indicated. It is submitted that the interrelationships between the elements of the claims are clear, and the claim as presented is correct.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome by the amendment and remark, and that the claims as amended are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn and the claims as amended be allowed

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (503) 439-8778 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request for an Extension of Time

The Applicant respectfully petitions for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) if needed. Please charge the fee for such extension to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

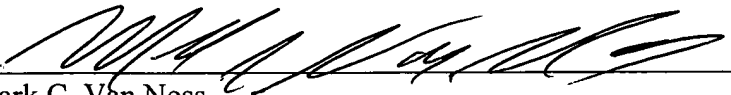
Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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